

## Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTP-02 EB-11

FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 XMB-07

AID-20 TRSE-00 OIC-04 AF-10 EA-11 RSR-01 /125 W  
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R 221600 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9453  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS GENEVA 2432

PASS AID AND EXIMBANK

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL PFOR

SUBJECT: ITU PANAFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK MEETING

REF: GENEVA 2270

1. MEETING TOOK PLACE MAY 21-22 WITH FOLLOWING COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT: CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, UK, US, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ( ADB), ECA, IBRD, UNDP AND ITU. COUNTRIES INVITED TO PARTICIPATE BUT

NOT REPRESENTED WERE: BELGIUM, CHINA, DENMARK, FINLAND, NORWAY, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND AND USSR.

2. REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY ADB AND ITU OBTAIN AGREEMENT ESTABLISH A COMMON FUND FOR FINANCING ENTIRE NETWORK AS A WHOLE FAILED.  
A. LABIDI, PRESIDENT OF ADB, EARLY IN SESSION, REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO RECENT OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING RESOLUTION URGING ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON FUND WITH ADB AS COORDINATOR TO ASSURE COMPLETION OF ENTIRE NETWORK. LABIDI EXPECTED THIS RESOLUTION TO BE CONFIRMED BY OAU HEADS OF STATES MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA NEXT WEEK. HE PRESSED HARD FOR ESTABLISHING FUND AS MEANS OF COORDINATING FINANCING IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLETION ENTIRE PROJECT INCLUDING  
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THOSE LINKS WHICH ARE ECONOMICALLY UNFEASIBLE. IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT PRIMARY MOTIVE FOR THIS PROPOSAL WAS DESIRE ON PART OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO REMOVE VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM RESULTING FROM NECESSITY IN SOME CASES TO ROUTE INTERAFRICAN TELECOM TRAFFIC THROUGH FORMER METROPOLES.

3. MOST PARTICIPANTS AT MEETING, LED OFF BY BRITISH AND FRENCH, INDICATED THEY UNABLE PARTICIPATE IN MULTILATERAL FUND AND SIGNIFIED INTENTION CONTINUE BILATERAL APPROACHES TO FUNDING OF TELECOM PROJECTS. PARTICIPANTS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO COORDINATE THEIR INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL TELECOM PROJECTS WITH PROPOSED NETWORK.

4. SUBSEQUENT ADB/ ITU PROPOSAL FOR A FUNDING COORDINATION MECHANISM ( COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF ADB, ITU, ECA WORLD BANK AND DONOR COUNTRIES) ALSO FAILED OF AGREEMENT BECAUSE MOST PARTICIPANTS INDICATED THEY LACKED AUTHORITY TO APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH COMMITTEE. THEREUPON LABIDI STATED THAT AN INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING WOULD BE CONVENED IN NOVEMBER 1973, AFTER PARTICIPANTS HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY EXAMINE FINAL DETAILED CONSULTANTS REPORTS EXPECTED END OF AUGUST. DATE AND PLACE OF SUCH MEETING WERE LEFT OPEN, ALTHOUGH AT ONE POINT LABIDI SUGGESTED ABIDJAN, HEADQUARTERS OF ADB, AS SITE. BASSIN

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Subject:** ITU PANAFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK MEETING  
**TAGS:** ETEL, PFOR, SZ, ETEL, ITU  
**To:** IO  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
VIENNA  
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